Black panthers in the country

3267. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of black panthers in the country as on today;

(b) the number of black panthers killed during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the total number of their skins, nails, fur and other bone pieces caught during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government for the protection of black panthers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) No exclusive census in respect of black panthers has been conducted in the country. Data on the number of black panthers killed and the total number of black panther skins, nails, fur, etc. seized is not collated at the Government of India's level.

(d) The steps taken by Government of India to protect wildlife including black panthers are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife conservation including wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.
2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife.
3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub-Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. — *Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant,* to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats including Black Panther.
5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.
6. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.
7. Intensive patrolling in sensitive protected areas is carried out in coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

National Parks and Sanctuaries in Sikkim

3268. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects formulated by Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries in the North-Eastern region particularly in Sikkim State;

(b) the number of projects approved till-date;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government in this respect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to State/UT Governments including North-Eastern region and Sikkim for conservation and protection of wildlife in the national parks and sanctuaries under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.-"Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries", "Project Tiger"* and *"Project Elephant"*. The proposals are received from State/UT Governments annually in the form of 'Annual Plan of Operations' (APOs) for financial assistance and are examined in the Ministry. During the previous financial year (2007-08) 64 APOs from North-Eastern Region including Sikkim were approved under these schemes. Details of financial assistance provided to North-Eastern States during 2007-08 under these schemes are as below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Dev. of NPs/WLS	Project Elephant	Project Tiger
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	125.05	54.50	110.25
2.	Assam	81.775	144.00	95.61
3.	Manipur	105.89	-	-
4.	Meghalaya	64.88	68.39	-
5.	Mizoram	169.46	1.33	82.90
6.	Nagaland	19.11	26.60	-
7.	Sikkim	159.22	-	-
8.	Tripura	36.00	12.00	-
	TOTAL:	761.385	306.82	288.76

Pollution free townships

3269. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to set up pollution free townships like the Masdar township established in 7 Km. desert adjoining Abu Dhabi in United Arab Emirates; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Steps are informed to have been undertaken for setting up a Masdar township at a huge investment adjoining Abu Dhabi in United Arab Emirates based on power generated from solar energy. The Government of India at present has no scheme for setting up of a township like the Masdar township.

To abate and control air and water pollution in cities, various steps have been initiated including the following: